CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATE - 21st March 2023 AGENDA 18, Enc vii)

Neighbourhood Services Officers
The Council's Neighbourhood Services Officers, Mark and Ryan have addressed several issues of vandalism to bus shelters, litterbins and floral planting. A number of flower troughs have been damaged and removed from Station Bridge and will be repaired ready for new summer. Three labour intensive floral planters not suited to more sustainable planting have been removed on the A197.

We supported NCC Neighbourhood Services to remove the dilapidated fencing and to tidy the area adjacent to the bus shelter the Council installed on Alexandra Road.

NSO's are operating a programme of removing column mounted and unstable litter bins and replacing bins on concrete pads, as opposed flagstones. There is now only one column mounted litter bin in the town. Once this programme is complete, we will order the 2023/24 quota of litter bins (24) to replace those that are past their best.

Work has been on-going in cleaning and maintenance of the town's bus shelters and play areas during winter months.

In the coming weeks Mark will be supporting the installation of defibrillators, and Ryan will be supporting the Great British Spring Clean. Additionally, all things spring will continue with maintenance of flowers beds in the town centre and gateways, as well as refurbishment on public seating. Several bus shelters have also been identified as requiring paint work.

The electric van continues to work well and meets officer requirements.

Engagement
Sharon is attending Wansbeck Community Engagement Day at Hirst Welfare Centre on Tuesday 21st March which is an ideal networking opportunity. The Great British Spring Clean has been the main focus over the last couple of weeks, as well as sharing the endeavours of the Ashington Litter Picking Project. We are working with Neighbourhood Services to seek a better way of reporting and to remove the double handling of community litter picks, which will improve response times and reduce our workload in this regard.

The events calendar, and forthcoming events, which have also been at the centre of recent work is on the agenda.

Hirst Masterplan
Several Members attended a Teams online meeting on Thursday 16th February to discuss the work carried out on the development of a masterplan for the Hirst. NCC's Neil Quinn has set up a mop-up sessions on 27th March from 5pm-6pm for those who were unable to attend.

Meeting with Great Northumberland Forest, Kirsten Johnson
Stephen met with Kirsten last Monday and talked through several potential sites for tree planting, some of which had previously been identified by Kirsten. In total, eleven sites have been identified for potential schemes including North Seaton roundabout, the Wansbeck estuary, Community Woods, and the Green Lane/Greencroft area.

Bus Shelters
Those bus shelters being funded by Cllrs Lynne Grimshaw and Caroline Ball have been ordered, along with the shelter going in on Woodhorn Road. An additional four shelters will be ordered at the start of the next financial year, according to life span and as advised at the February FGS meeting.

Allotment Liaison Meeting

The first meeting was held on Thursday 16th March. The meeting was attended by allotment associations, Councillors and staff. At the meeting, the work to develop new agreements between the Town Council and individual allotment associations was agreed. This would then lead to new Tenancy Agreements and Rules & Regulations being developed for sites across the town. Mike Brannigan, of the National Allotment Society is supporting the Town Council with this element of the work.

Defibrillators

The defibrillators are being installed next week at the twelve locations agreed by the Council, and with funding from all Ashington County Cllrs. Sarah is working directly with the named guardians to register each defibrillator on The Circuit which identifies them to North East Ambulance Service in the case of an emergency.

The initial registration is complete and each site guardian will then log on and identify them as emergency ready, once they are installed.